

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A flexible auxiliary storage arrangement for a vehicle having
2 a passenger cabin with front and rear passenger seats and a cargo bed
3 extending rearwardly from a rear wall of the passenger cabin, the arrangement
4 comprising:

5 a rear seat system positioned adjacent the rear wall of the
6 passenger cabin and including a rear seat cushion having a first hinge assembly
7 at a forward portion of its bottom side and a rear seat back having a second
8 hinge assembly proximate its top edge;

9 the first hinge assembly operative to enable the rear seat cushion
10 to rotate forwardly to a substantially vertical position with a rear end of the rear
11 seat cushion facing a roof of the cabin; and

12 the second hinge assembly operative to enable the rear seat back
13 to rotate forwardly to a substantially horizontal position with a rear surface of the
14 rear seat back resting upon the rear end of the rear seat cushion.

1 2. The arrangement of claim 1 further comprising:

2 at least one locator pin extending from one of the rear surface of
3 the rear seat back and the rear end of the rear seat cushion; and

4 at least one mating receptacle formed in the other one of the rear
5 surface of the rear seat back and the rear end of the rear seat cushion;

6 whereby with the at least one locator pin engaging the at least one
7 receptacle, the rotated rear seat cushion and rear seat back are coupled together
8 to form a substantially rectanguloid storage area beneath the rotated rear seat
9 back and between the rotated rear seat cushion and the rear wall of the cabin.

1 3. The arrangement of claim 2 wherein the rotated seat back is
2 adapted for use as a bed.

1 4. The arrangement of claim 3 further comprising an occupant
2 containment net adapted for attachment at opposing upper ends to the
3 passenger cabin and having one of a seatbelt tongue and a seatbelt buckle
4 coupled to a lower edge of the net and adapted to respectively mate with one of
5 a seatbelt buckle and a seatbelt tongue associated with the rotated rear seat
6 cushion.

1 5. The arrangement of claim 1 further comprising a recessed
2 storage compartment positioned underneath the rear seat cushion, wherein the
3 storage compartment is accessible when the rear seat cushion is rotated forward.

1 6. The arrangement of claim 1 further comprising an opening in
2 the rear wall of the passenger cabin located behind the rear seat back and in
3 communication with an opening in a front wall of the cargo bed, whereby a length

4 of the cargo bed is extended when the rear seat cushion and the rear seat back
5 are rotated forwardly.

1 7. The arrangement of claim 6 further comprising a bag
2 assembly having a rigid end panel sized for mating closure of the opening in the
3 rear wall of the passenger cabin when the bag assembly is not in use and side
4 walls fashioned from a flexible fabric defining with the end panel an extendable
5 storage volume in communication with the cargo bed via the opening in the front
6 wall of the cargo bed whenever the rigid end panel is moved into the passenger
7 cabin.

1 8. The arrangement of claim 7 further comprising a movable
2 door in the cargo bed closing off the opening in the front wall of the cargo bed.

1 9. The arrangement of claim 8 wherein the movable door
2 includes at least one hinge at a bottom edge thereof and further comprising a
3 recessed depression in a floor of the cargo bed for mating receipt of the door
4 when rotated down about the at least one hinge to expose the opening in the
5 front wall of the cargo bed.

1 10. The arrangement of claim 9 further comprising a releasable
2 latch positioned inside the bag assembly for selective opening and closing of the
3 movable door; and

4 an opening in a wall of the bag assembly enabling access to the
5 releasable latch from inside the passenger cabin.

1 11. The arrangement of claim 10 wherein the opening includes a
2 disengageable sealing element.

1 12. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the disengageable
2 sealing element comprises a zipper.

1 13. A flexible auxiliary storage arrangement for a vehicle having
2 a passenger cabin and a cargo bed extending rearwardly from a rear wall of the
3 passenger cabin, the arrangement comprising:

4 an opening in the rear wall of the passenger cabin and in
5 communication with an opening in a front wall of the cargo bed, whereby a length
6 of the cargo bed is extended into a rear portion of the passenger cabin.

1 14. The arrangement of claim 13 further comprising a bag
2 assembly having a rigid end panel sized for mating closure of the opening in the
3 rear wall of the passenger cabin when the bag assembly is not in use and side
4 walls fashioned from a flexible fabric defining with the end panel an extendable
5 storage volume in communication with the cargo bed via the opening in the front
6 wall of the cargo bed whenever the rigid end panel is moved into the passenger
7 cabin.

1 15. The arrangement of claim 14 further comprising a movable
2 door in the cargo bed closing off the opening in the front wall of the cargo bed.

1 16. The arrangement of claim 15 wherein the movable door
2 includes at least one hinge at a bottom edge thereof and further comprising a
3 recessed depression in a floor of the cargo bed for mating receipt of the door
4 when rotated down about the at least one hinge to expose the opening in the
5 front wall of the cargo bed.

1 17. The arrangement of claim 16 further comprising a releasable
2 latch positioned inside the bag assembly for selective opening and closing of the
3 movable door; and
4 an opening in a wall of the bag assembly enabling access to the
5 releasable latch from inside the passenger cabin.

1 18. The arrangement of claim 17 wherein the opening includes a
2 disengageable sealing element.

1 19. The arrangement of claim 18 wherein the disengageable
2 sealing element comprises a zipper.